

ANNUAL REPORT,

1896.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
FRANKLIN.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF FRANKLIN
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1897.

J. HERBERT BAKER,
FRANCES E. KING,
FRED P. CHAPMAN,
GEORGE KING,

Term expires March, 1897
“ “ “ 1897
“ “ “ 1898
“ “ “ 1899

ERNEST D. DANIELS, SUPERINTENDENT.

Report of School Committee.

TO THE CITIZENS OF FRANKLIN :

The work of your School Committee for the fiscal year of 1896 and 1897 has been very harmonious. This is due to several reasons :

1st. That the Committee has come to understand that their meetings together on the first Thursday evenings of each month were not to while away the hours on some trifling topic, but to begin at once at the hour appointed to transact the business to which the town elected them in a manner courteous to each other.

2d. That by-laws recently adopted by the Committee and carefully revised during the present year have come to have their full weight with the Committee.

3d. That a carefully prepared plan of the necessary items of business on the part of the Superintendent has greatly facilitated the business of the hour.

The first work of your Committee was to organize itself for work, as may be noted on a previous page.

The business of the Committee has been made harmonious, too, by the adopting as its action, in nearly every instance, the report and recommendation of its sub-committees. It should be said in this connection that these committees, in their report to the general Committee, have shown a careful consideration of the topics assigned them, and an earnest desire to reduce to their lowest figure the matters under their care.

COMMITTEE ON REPAIRS.

The work of this Committee is worthy of special mention. It has seemed advisable during the year to do a large amount of painting. Great care has been taken that the strictest economy should be practiced in the purchase of materials and in the use of time necessary to apply the same.

COMMITTEE ON FUEL.

This Committee has followed the same general plan in procuring its fuel as in the years just passed. Through the efforts of this Committee a slight reduction in the price of the cleft oak wood has been secured.

COMMITTEE ON BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

This is the most important of the Board's sub-committees, as upon its recommendation the Board purchases its books and supplies to a very large degree; and in case of any difference of opinion between the Board and its Superintendent as to the advisability of any purchase the Board has adopted its report in preference. This Committee is to be commended for its conscientious and faithful service in the matters assigned to it.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

Through the efforts of the Board's Special Committee, Mr. Chapman, it has accomplished some of the much-needed work on the grounds around the Horace Mann building. The approaches to this building have been a constant source of annoyance to teachers and pupils ever since the building has been in use. It was, therefore, thought best that the money asked for by the Committee of last year should be expended in improving the walks around this building, and this has been done to the satisfaction of the Committee.

But a great deal more should be done. The grounds around the building should be graded to a stone curbing around the entire property; and at an appropriate point in front of the building a statue to America's greatest educator, the man for whom the building is named, Franklin's most illustrious son—Horace Mann—should be erected by the

children of the Public Schools, together with the citizens of the town; and as the town has chosen to erect a building that should be an ornament to the community, instead of for the purpose of the greatest utility as a means of education, it should see to it that its work of ornamentation should be made complete in these grounds.

SUPERINTENDENT.

The work of the Superintendent has been pushed forward during the year with unabated zeal. Department work has been tried with good success in some of the middle grades. Through his efforts and the approval of the Committee a Teachers' Institute was held in the autumn which was recognized to be of the greatest value to our teachers and to our citizens of the best influence, as it brought before both some of the most approved methods now in operation in our State educational work.

As the Committee has come to understand both by law and practice what may be required of a Superintendent, a larger per cent. of responsibility has been laid upon him for securing good teachers and for the grading and general discipline in the schools.

TEACHERS.

The requirements for a good teacher in the Public Schools are many. It has come to be almost an unwritten law that our teachers shall be graduates from some of the State's Normal Schools, and thus be familiar, in general, with the best methods of work. We claim that we have as good a corps of teachers as can be found in any town of its size and valuation in the Commonwealth. As an evidence of this fact it should be noted that during the year teachers from our number have been called to fill better positions in the towns of Bedford, Everett and Woburn.

The high grade of work done in our Public Schools today is a fact worthy of notice, especially as it is placed in comparison with the work of but a few years since, before the days of a Superintendent. Today pupils direct from our Public Schools may be found in such schools as Brown Uni-

versity, Boston University and Worcester School of Technology.

The above result has only been reached by a careful grading of the studies from the Primary upward, and a continued effort to bring the same into successful operation. This result has been reached through the patient and persistent efforts of the Superintendent and his efficient corps of teachers, and, while it may be necessary to practice the most rigid economy in the near future in the various departments of the town service, great care should be taken not to destroy the efficiency of the school service by any insidious attack on our school system in the name of economy.

During the year another of the schools in out-districts has been closed and its pupils brought to the Centre schools. In previous cases of this kind the Committee has had a laborious task to show to the citizens of these districts the many and increased advantages that would accrue to their children by attendance upon the graded schools of the Centre. But in this case—the Northwest—these are the very reasons laid before the Committee why their children should have the privileges of the village schools. Thus the people are coming to understand something of the excellent work that is being done by our graded schools.

Your Committee has this year made a step forward in the efficiency of the High School by adding to its already well-defined classical and English courses a special or Business course. That the citizens appreciate this move on the part of the Committee is evidenced by the already large attendance upon the classes of this course. It has also proved a source of a considerable income to the funds of the School Department in the shape of tuitions received from pupils of adjacent communities, and it is hoped that the town will make sufficient appropriations to continue the course at least through the present school year.

The sanitary system in Horace Mann building is in a deplorable condition. It has already become necessary to close some of the compartments on account of their uselessness. Complaint has even now come to the Committee

of the discomfort and unhealthfulness of which it is the direct cause. It is also an item of considerable expense to keep the system in at least working order. Your Committee is of the opinion that some steps should be immediately taken to entirely remodel the present system, or, better, put in some system more simple and less expensive to operate. We would recommend that a special appropriation be made for this specific purpose.

The most vital need of the Free Schools of this community today is a more intimate acquaintance by the fathers and mothers of the town with the work that is being done by your Committee through their Superintendent and teachers. It is not enough that your children be packed away out of your sight and mind five and one-quarter hours two hundred days in the year in the school-room, as in a storehouse, that the teacher shall grind out alone at the age of sixteen or eighteen such minds as you think they ought to have. But it is your duty to testify to your appreciation of the work of your Committee, your Superintendent, your teachers, by your hearty co-operation with them to develop your sons and daughters into worthy citizens. As one means to this end let your names be found often upon the teachers' visiting list. As another, while it may be your privilege to criticise adversely these your servants, it is your greater privilege, in view of the duties you have laid upon them, to work heartily with them in the furtherance of the plans you, through them, have made. Let the more favored ones encourage the high grade of work now done in the Public Schools by sending their pupils to them, and give thereby to the less favored ones the education that comes by association with them; and let the poorest remember that the advantages of the Public School are equally free to his son and daughter; and let them learn here together, under the same Free School-house roof, obedience to law and love for all our free institutions.

The School Committee make the following estimates for school expenses the current year :

For salaries of Superintendent, teachers, janitors

and fuel,	\$10,575 00
For books and supplies, repairs and transportation,	2,625 00
Total amount,	<u>\$13,200 00</u>

In behalf of the Committee.

J. HERBERT BAKER,
Chairman.

ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FISCAL YEAR 1896-97.

Chairman—J. Herbert Baker.

Secretary—Frances E. King.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Books and Supplies—Frances E. King.

Fuel—Fred P. Chapman.

Repairs—George King.

Music and Drawing—J. Herbert Baker.

Rules and Regulations—Dr. George King.

Auditing—Fred P. Chapman.

High School, Ninth Grade, Eighth Grade and City Mills—J. Herbert Baker.

Two Sub-Grammar Schools, Populatic and Northwest—Dr. George King.

Nos. 1 and 2 Primary, Unionville, High School Advisory—Fred P. Chapman.

Nos. 3, 4 and 5 Primary, Two Intermediates—Frances E. King.

Superintendent—Ernest D. Daniels.

REPORT OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE :

Permit me to submit to you and the citizens of Franklin the following report of the schools. Such a report, if true, must represent the actual condition of the schools, their needs and plans for the future. Many reports consist of abstract theorizing, and are of little use.

The changes in the past year have been many. In April, to increase the efficiency of the High School, Miss Whiting began a course in physical culture and vocal reading. Knowledge is of far less value unless conveyed in a pleasant and attractive manner. Her results have been most praiseworthy. This additional work made the employment of another assistant necessary, and Miss Bertha Ellis, a recent graduate, was secured. In June, after a careful and protracted examination, the Committee decided to add a commercial course to the High School. The vote seemed eminently wise, even in this year of needed economy.

In the school year of 1895-96 six of Franklin's young people pursued such a course in the neighboring cities at an average cost of \$300, making a total of about \$1,800 from the people. Many could not afford this. We are now receiving \$200, the larger part since September, from the adjoining towns, in tuition, and will receive much more in the future if the present standards are maintained. The money thus received could have been used to pay in part the salary of the extra teacher. In other words, by an outlay of some \$300 of the town's money, we are saving six times as much to the individuals of the town. The instructor, in addition to the studies of a distinctive commercial course, is teaching three other subjects daily in the High School.

"How does the work compare with that of the commercial schools?" We can do better work than they if we can retain

the present teachers. Instead of a year's course, we offer a four years' course. "Can you get positions for the graduates?" another asks. Two positions have been already secured by our pupils, and others promised upon the completion of the work. The number and faithfulness of the students justify the existence of such a course. "But can you not do the work with fewer teachers?" No. Since September there have been one hundred and seven different pupils reciting to the High School teachers. One teacher could manage this number if all studied the same subjects. Neither parents nor scholars are willing all should do the same. The wider the choice, the more classes; hence the more teachers. At present the burden upon each teacher is very heavy. Miss A. Fannie O'Hara, a graduate of Roxbury High School and three years' student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with the record of a year's successful teaching at Norwood, was finally secured for the new work. From her scholarship and personal influence she is a most valuable assistant. This commercial course is not "catering to the dullards," as our critics retail, but is thoroughly in line with the movement throughout the State, and demands an equal amount of time and mental application. With inferior instructors any course easily becomes the catch-all for the poorer scholars.

I believe the classics and mathematics furnish the best foundation training for a liberal education and for life. Many pupils have not the perseverance to master even their elements. Shall such be denied all secondary education because they do not care for what seems best to us? Shall they be left to go on the streets? Is it not a duty to furnish under certain limits what the people and the children of the people feel they need?

Late in August Miss Mamie O. Sawyer resigned her position. Miss Sawyer was not a perfect teacher — none of us are — but in these latter days when the cry is popularity, yea, even when prizes are offered for the most popular teacher and the faithful go unrewarded; when the tendency is to amuse and entertain the scholars, it is a good thing now and then to

have a firm disciplinarian and thorough drill-master. If the opponents of such teachers would labor half as hard to correct their children at home and on the streets and in systematic visits to the schools, as they do in spreading prejudiced criticisms, our schools would be far better to-day.

The Committee appointed Miss A. G. Pierce, a graduate of Bridgewater, a good student and highly recommended teacher, to the eighth grade. She is trying most faithfully. The school in many respects is the hardest to manage in town.

The departmental plan is still continued in the School Street School with gratifying results. Miss Katherine Gardner, one of the best sixth grade teachers we ever had, resigned early in the Summer. For several weeks we sought the right candidate. Miss Mary L. Saxton, a successful teacher from Vermont and a graduate of high rank from Mt. Holyoke, was selected. Pupils, who at home seem little ladies and gentlemen, at school are like wild barbarians and need a stern hand. In the American schools more than half the teacher's strength is wasted in maintaining discipline—a discipline that ought to have been taught in the home. Early in November Miss Saxton submitted her resignation to the Committee. For the salary offered no one could be found who could so satisfactorily meet the needs of the school in their sum total as Miss Saxton; therefore we have continued to employ her. The school has greatly improved. Miss Saxton is a most estimable lady, a good scholar and an excellent instructor.

Miss Frances Whiting resigned to accept a position in Everett, and Miss Bertha Ellis, a High School graduate and assistant, who had prepared herself by further study at Dean and at Cottage City, was elected to the City Mills School. She is doing most excellent work for a beginner. I commend her loyalty to the school and its interests, her willingness to learn and ability to inspire others with a like desire. Often children are kept from wrong simply by having their activities constantly directed toward right ends. Miss Ellis' order and general oversight during recitation, study and play hours is good. Much criticism has been heard because a Normal graduate of experience was not elected. "A Normal gradu-

ate" has become the standard cry of the unthinking, as if that insured success. A successful Normal graduate of experience will not accept the salary Franklin is paying in her lower grades. The unsuccessful one we do not seek. The Normal course is the best as yet designed for the training of teachers, but it cannot make a good teacher out of poor material, and it does tend to give undue emphasis to the form and method of instruction and less to the substance of knowledge.

Four days before the opening of Primary No. 2 Miss Mary Linton resigned. We were most fortunate in securing Miss Harriet Baker, a graduate of Framingham, who has obtained the most excellent results. Miss Baker had several flattering offers during her work here, and at the end of the term resigned. Miss Pearl Jacobs has been substituting in the room. Miss Lucy Burgess, after careful investigation by the Committee, was elected for the Unionville School. She seemed to have all the necessary qualifications for that vacancy. At the end of the first week she resigned. The people in the North West wished to have their children transported to the center schools. Because this was almost unanimous, the request was granted, and Miss Lee was transferred to the Unionville School. Her work has been most satisfactory in both places.

In December Miss Eva Whiting accepted a better position, and Miss Rachel Wordell of Bridgewater has been secured.

While believing heartily in the greater benefits derived from bringing the pupils of the outlying districts to the center, I am not in favor of extending it unless the parents desire the improvement. In expending the money of the town this argument hardly merits the highest claim: "Because we pay a larger proportion of the taxes we should have greater privileges than the other districts." Is this patriotism, or selfishness? Right, or is it might? Is this distribution true in the family or in the state? The idea is growing that the strong must bear the burdens of the weak, the rich of the poor, and the cry is not as tolerated as of old—"How much can I force the state or town to do for me," but rather, "how much can I do for it?"

Experience has taught the school officials that pupils can

be prepared for the High School in the eighth and ninth grades in the center, better than in the districts. In the past four years no district school has succeeded in preparing a pupil to either enter or pursue the course in the High school. Therefore, pupils are advised to attend the Horace Mann building for these two grades. Under the state laws the School Board has absolute authority in grading the schools. Pupils of the higher grades are permitted to ride wherever busses are provided for transportation of lower grades. But this fall a demand and threat came from a district where a school is kept for the younger scholars, that their eighth and ninth grade pupils must be transported to the Horace Mann by the town. If the town wishes to do so, then it is my pleasure to execute that wish. Personally I fail to see the justice of having the town pay for the Unionville children, small as the sum may be, and not granting the same privilege to those coming from 'Latic and City Mills. Should not all outlying portions of the town be treated the same, as far as possible, irrespective of local taxation?

In filling the vacancies, as severally mentioned, much care has been taken. We get better work, while she remains, from the teacher who is progressive and means to use her success as a stepping-stone to something better than from the one who is contented to spend her life here. Scholarship, character, earnestness and chance for success must be considered.

Of the faithful teachers who have remained with us, the public has had ample opportunity to judge of their success.

Four years ago only one of the public school teachers was doing any advanced studying; now there are six, and these are our best and most progressive teachers. In addition to the regular monthly teachers' meeting, a volunteer class, meeting once a week, has been formed for mind-study.

The development of a broader spirit has not been limited to the teachers, as evinced by the successful drama and lecture course given by the senior class in the High school. The evening before Thanksgiving an entertainment was prepared for the public, the admission asked being provisions for the

poor. The next morning many dollars' worth of supplies was distributed among the needy.

“BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM.”

Fred V. Hussey, valedictorian of the class of '96, entered Brown University on certificate from the Franklin High School and has obtained honors in more than half of his subsequent examinations. F. Roy Comey entered Boston University and has already received advanced standing in French. O. S. Stetson, class of '97, passed without conditions the examinations of both the Boston and Worcester Institutes of Technology. Lee C. Abbott, '95, entered the University of Vermont after several months of successful teaching in a neighboring town. Margaret Sullivan, '96, is doing excellent work at Bridgewater Normal. Marion Bennet, Chas. Frazer and Pearl Jacobs have been pursuing advanced courses in the High schools. Eliza Newell is at home. Louis De Sorgher is a druggist clerk.

It is a pleasure to mention Dr. King's careful, business-like supervision of the repairs during the summer, and his effective use of the town's money for such purposes.

The furniture of the various rooms have been most skillfully renovated and kept in repairs by our janitors. The repairs needed next year are an enlarged woodshed and fencing at °Latic, and a new floor; fencing at the Four Corners, and better ventilation at the Brick. Walls in a few rooms need tinting. The plan of incineration in the closets at the Horace Mann is in many respects a failure, and is at present, I believe, unsanitary. These closets must be repaired or new ones on a better plan, introduced. The third floor of this building needs strengthening by iron girders. In buildings of the same cost great pains is taken to render the floors sound-proof and fire-proof by means of cement and asbestos. These and a few other repairs must be done before the building can be called first-class. Few can realize in what an unfinished condition the Horace Mann was left, and how much of the janitor's time has been used to bring it to as near completion as it is at present.

Early in March there was an epidemic of diphtheria among certain families. The Four Corners' building was supposed by some to be the cause. The superintendent closed it and sent the pupils temporarily to Nason street. The recommendations of the Board of Health were fully complied with and by their permission the building is in use again. A more fruitful source of disease is in the exchanging of books and supplies among the pupils. A different method of distribution has been employed by advice of the Health Board although it involves a slight increase in expense.

The majority of our text-books are in better condition than ever before. Great economy has been followed in the purchase and distribution of books and supplies. In some subjects only one book has been allotted to two pupils; yet the very parents who are in favor of less appropriation for schools do the fault-finding.

Greater care must be exercised by the teachers as well as by your children with the town's property. In one week five books were found and brought in to me, yet only one had been reported lost. How careless the other four! Teachers are not exact enough in recording each book nor the children in the use. Parents, please help us.

Permit me to call attention to a few defects. * There is a lack of interest by the parents in the daily routine. Let a teacher give an entertainment and we are blessed with visitors who never call during the routine work. Does this not implant the idea in the child's mind that the show-periods of life are more important than daily truth-living?

The average salary is too small to retain our best teachers. If we do good work we are at best but a training school for larger places.

The number of school weeks should be increased to at least thirty-eight per year in grades 4 to 8.

The work in geography and nature-study, with the exception of the course at School street, is decidedly poor throughout the schools. The teachers have not been trained in the scientific study of geography,

Last summer Frye's Geographies were introduced in part, though against the Superintendent's recommendation.

These text-books, although containing many valuable features, are inadequate and unsatisfactory except under ideal conditions, which we do not at present possess.

The old text-book in grammar has given place to the new Sheldon's Series.

Your Superintendent had been dissatisfied for some time with both the methods and results obtained in the first year's reading. In St. Louis, where phonics are well taught, it has been found that "children can read as well at the end of four months as those attending schools where phonics are not taught can read in two years' time." Similar results have been gained here in Miss Linton's room. In view of this fact Ward's Manual and Reader were introduced. A decided gain has already been shown.

Among the minor changes must be mentioned the increased time given to algebra and the excellent work in physiology in the ninth grade. Bookkeeping is not taken as a separate study in that grade this year because of the advanced course in the High School. Latin, however, is made elective in both the ninth and tenth years.

The vertical system of writing introduced in all grades below the eighth is successful. We cannot get the best results until the teachers themselves can write better. We have but one excellent writer among the teachers. I have come to believe that part of the money now expended in special instruction in other lines, would bring more practical results if used to employ for a few weeks a special instructor in penmanship.

A public kindergarten is needed and can be established if the town will grant a like appropriation to that of last year.

A larger appropriation for physical apparatus for the science department of the High School is needed. Several hundred dollars would be required to fit a class for Harvard. We hope for at least \$100 this year to advance the excellent and faithful work of Miss Goodwin in the sciences.

In June some twelve pupils from our ninth grade failed

to deserve the marks required for promotion. The Committee decided that these pupils could not enter the High School that year, a decision which has proved wise by subsequent events. In September four students from another school wished to enter the High School. Contrary to custom they had exactly the same questions as had been previously given in June in our examinations, but only one of these pupils passed. Should the others enter with a lower per cent. than by the twelve already refused? No. Yet this decision, the only one possible, was unsatisfactory to some.

A PLEA FOR THE CLASSICS.

There has been a revolt in recent years against the study of the classics, while science and modern languages are urged as an equivalent. There is a serious danger in this tendency. The scientific spirit demands the test of experiment for all. But from environment or temperament all are not capable of deriving the truth from these tests. The dearest images and the highest ideals of the past are needlessly lugged into their quasi-laboratories and dissected. Faith is undermined, reverence for the great achievements of the past is lost, and authority of anything but the individual's own experiments is questioned. In abandoning the study of these monuments of past thought and glory, are we not "selling our birthright for a mess of pottage?"

Respectfully submitted,

E. D. DANIELS, A. M.

SCHOOL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR CLOSING JAN. 31, 1897.

SCHOOL.	NAMES OF TEACHERS.		Whole Number of Pupils Enrolled.	Average Number of Pupils belonging.	Average Daily Attendance.	Per cent. of Attendance.	Number of Tardinesses.	Number of Visitors.
High.....	E. D. Daniels.....	*81	66.2	62.2	†93.9	22	131	
“	Grace C. Whiting.....							
“	Cora B. Goodwin.....							
“	A. Fannie O'Hara.....							
High Gram.	1 Frances E. King.....	35	32.2	30.4	94.4	13	63	
“ “	2 Anna G. Pierce.....	42	36.5	34.7	95.1	34	36	
Sub-Gram.	1 Isabelle M. Reilly.....	40	39.2	36.4	92.9	21	59	
“	2 Mary L. Saxton.....	51	46.2	42.8	92.6	31	57	
Intermediate	1 Susan L. Senter....	55	45.8	39.0	85.2	33	106	
“	2 Julia G. Stockbridge.....	47	47.7	44.7	93.5	95	59	
Primary	1 Rebecca Dunning.....	45	30.3	26.4	87.1	70	111	
“	2 Mary F. Kauffmann.....	44	34.2	30.0	87.7	52	77	
“	3 Annie B. Bright.....	59	42.6	39.7	93.2	47	96	
“	4 Emily F. Morse.....	62	41.5	37.9	91.3	46	63	
“	5 Lucy E. Tower.....	51	39.0	35.1	90.0	40	76	
City Mills.....	Bertha E. Ellis.....	29	18.2	16.5	90.7	19	125	
Populatic.....	Rachel Wordell.....	26	22.9	20.2	88.2	40	39	
Unionville.....	Kate B. Lee.	22	18.8	17.7	94.2	46	51	
<i>Districts Transported.</i>	<i>Drivers.</i>							
Mount	Alfred F. Everett.....							
North West. ...	Ed. P. Proctor.....	30	25.3	20.	78.8	41	13	
So. Franklin....	John H. Tyler.....							
	Totals for 1896-7.....	719	586.6	533.7	90.9	650	1062	
	Torals for 1895-6.....	716	558.7	510.6	91.3	801	817	
	Totals for 1894-5.....	736	560.17	510.52	90.4	782	747	
	Totals for 1893-4.....	938	660.8	559.8	90.3	1339	630	
	Totals for 1892-3	883	752.2	681.7	90.6	2194	1020	

Number of visits made by the Superintendent in school hours 196.

*The enrolment does not include all the pupils. There have been 120 different pupils reciting to the teachers of the High School in the school year of 1896-7.

†This total does not include all the specials.

HIGH SCHOOL BUSINESS COURSE.

TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN:

Although the "Business Course" was not introduced into the curriculum of the High School until last September, we believe that much has already been accomplished in fitting the young people of Franklin for a more successful business career.

We believe that no one can be a successful business man or woman, unless he knows how to manage his own business. To do that he must write well, spell well, add correctly and rapidly, and be acquainted with the ordinary business forms, and with the ordinary business forms and laws, and with the principles of double-entry and book-keeping.

Thus far the members of the book-keeping class have become well grounded in the principles and ordinary forms of "double-entry book-keeping," and in many of the rapid and approved methods of "commercial arithmetic."

The stenography class are already familiar with the "Gregg system of phonography." They write correctly, and with a fair rate of speed, and are able to translate what they write readily.

Another year, with added experience, increased facilities and improved methods, we hope to fill entirely the place which has hitherto been occupied by the Business College.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNA FANNIE O'HARA.

February 5, 1897.

REPORT OF THE SUPERVISOR OF DRAWING.

But few changes have been made in the drawing meth-

ods, these mainly in raising the grade work where possible.

Several new casts were purchased at the close of last year, and are appreciated in the charcoal drawing, as are also the better accommodations for the juniors and seniors in the hall over the main school-room. There is yet need of a few more desks and drawing boards. Conflicting hours of recitations are, perhaps, the most serious difficulty encountered here this year, and this seems unavoidable.

A little has been attempted in water-colors in the higher grades, with fair results, considering the difficulty of handling the medium, and the short time given it. The work has included laying flat washes of color, grading from tints to shades, and mixing colors. Water-colors have also been employed in simple designs, and in map-coloring.

Color tablets have been furnished the primary grades, but the supply of colored paper is very low.

More attention is being given to designs, one of the practical features of art, with the additional endeavor for individuality and originality, not always easily secured.

The point needing most strengthening in all grades is readiness in drawing from objects, and nothing will effect this but practice. This readiness in seeing, and representing what is seen is the chief end and aim of all the drawing instruction. It would be an advantage if home sketches were required often of the pupils. A welcome variation might thus be made from the type forms, which are of necessity, the subject of most school sketches. In the High School this is done, particularly with the seniors and juniors, the sketches being criticised with the class. A pocket sketch-book and a few spare moments each day might accomplish wonders. Another feature to be recommended is drawing from memory. To sum up everything "The only way to learn to draw is by drawing."

Thanks are due the teachers and many of the pupils for their interest and endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,

ADRA R. MASON.

January 26, 1897.

REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF MUSIC.

The Supervisor of music in the Franklin Public Schools would present the following report:—

The study of music has been accomplished throughout the year with excellent success, the usual amount of work being done in the lower grades, while a remarkable improvement has been noticed in the High School. A reason for this is the new Cecilian, one of the Normal series which was purchased during the year. A collection seems to be an incentive to the pupils; it gives a broader field of work, with the use of the Euterpean, which has been used for many years.

The voices are improving in the High School and the part singing is excellent because of the good readers.

Tunefulness of intervals and quality of tone have been successfully attained through much labor on the part of the Supervisor and the regular teachers. There are fewer pupils without a good scale this year than in those preceding; an average of two or three in a room without a true scale would, I think, cover the lower grades. Individual singing has been encouraged, and many pupils are delighted to sing exercises and songs alone.

The lessons have been generally well learned and it has been a pleasure to hear them. The teachers' meetings have been fully attended. Since September there have been several grade meetings.

Written work has been required nearly every week from all the grades upon technical points, and the many papers will be seen in May or June of this year, when an exhibition of music will probably be given. Last June some very good vocal work was exemplified, in the presence of the Committee and a few musical people.

The Supervisor would herewith extend her thanks to the teachers for their constant aid in her behalf, knowing success is due largely to their ever willing kindness to her, and faith-

ful daily teaching.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. LIZZIE TREEN HOSMER.

January 25, 1897.

SCHOOL STREET SCHOOL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE :

At the request of the Superintendent of Schools I have prepared for the Committee a brief report of the work at the School Street School for the past year.

The most important change of the year has been the introduction of the departmental plan of instruction in the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh grades. Certain classes of studies, mathematics, English, geography and nature have been arranged in departments reciting to one teacher. As this system of teaching was one of the new departures in educational matters, I have carefully watched the results obtained in each study. At first the work of our classes progressed, perhaps slowly, but in the end most satisfactorily. After a trial of six months the teachers were willing to admit that the change to the departmental plan of teaching was for many reasons a wise one and was sure to be a success if continued in the future.

I have found the advantage of this system to be: 1. Better classification and progress of pupils; more frequent promotions. 2. More interest manifested by the pupils in preparing their work. 3. More careful planning and better arrangement of lessons through the numerous grades; economy of time.

The past year's experience will be of much assistance to us in our work for the ensuing year. We hope to make a complete success of this system of instruction and prove it to be a great success.

All the grades are well supplied with language books, much to the satisfaction of the teacher in that department. In the seventh grade the change from Sheldon's arithmetic to the New Franklin was appreciated by teacher and pupils. The arithmetics in the sixth class are in poor condition. Many of the books are old and ought to be replaced by others. Pupils and teacher of the sixth and seventh grades welcomed the introduction of Frye's geography. A few additional copies are required in each of the grades to facilitate our work.

Respectfully submitted,

ISABEL M REILLY.

TRUANT OFFICER'S REPORT.

TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Since receiving my appointment as Truant Officer last April I have had twenty cases reported. Found one boy playing truant. I swore out a warrant and arrested the boy. He was taken before Trial Justice Doe, the case was continued, and the boy left town soon after. I find that in most of the cases reported the parents keep the children at home. Whatever fault may be found should therefore fall on the parents and not on the children. All of which is

Respectfully submitted,

SILAS W. NICKERSON,

Truant Officer.

